

FLYING INSTRUCTORS ARE GIVEN BADGES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Instructors of flyers in the air service of the army have been authorized by the war department to wear on the left arm a

silver decoration consisting of gilt wings the same size as those in the insignia on the collar decoration. This award, it was announced today, is made in appreciation of the services of the several hundred flyers who have been kept at home for use on the flying fields of this country in turning out the quota of pilots asked for by the allies.

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NITRATE WORKERS' WAGE DEMANDS REFUSED BY U.S.

Men at Plant No. 2, Muscle Shoals, Show Willingness to See Job Through—Holdings Cut Short.

SHEPHERD, Ala., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—The answer of the government to the various trades at work on the United States nitrate plant No. 2, at Muscle Shoals, which have demanded an increase in their rates of pay, was received by telegram from Washington late yesterday and was a definite refusal. The electricians at work on the big plant were out on a strike for 10 days demanding an increase in pay from 75 cents an hour to \$1.25 cents an hour. The strike was called as soon as the strict eight-hour basis was made effective at the plant following the signing of the armistice. The demands for increases from \$1.00 an hour to \$1.25 an hour were made by plumbers and steamfitters also, and although a number of them walked out, no general strike was called by these trades.

It has been rumored on the streets here that in case the reply of the government to the trades organizations' demands was unfavorable, a general strike of all the unions at the plant would be called.

It seems, however, since the receipt of the government's reply, the idea has been abandoned and that no strike will be called.

The message from Washington followed: "Major J. F. Sullivan, U. S. C. M., Nitrate Plant No. 2, Muscle Shoals, Ala. "At the general conference this afternoon, it was decided not to increase any wage rates at Muscle Shoals. By the signing of the armistice, the immediate necessity for your plant has passed. The workmen should appreciate the opportunity given them by the continuance of construction work there even under these changed conditions. Advise at once if sufficient men will agree to remain at work until completion to warrant continuance of constructive operations. (Signed)

"MARSHALL H. WALBRIDGE." The above message was posted at a number of public places at Muscle Shoals yesterday afternoon and Maj. Marshall, U. S. A., addressed a number of gatherings of workmen, explaining to them that the necessity for rush on construction work had passed and that the government would discontinue the construction work at once if they insisted on their demands. It is stated that after Maj. Marshall's talk at the motion picture show to a crowd of 2,000 workmen, he asked how many of them would stick until the job was done and on a rising answer to his question almost every man in the house stood up. Officials of the plant have been discussing the advisability of closing the work down from Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 on account of the number of men who desire to go home for the holidays, but after deliberation it has been decided that holidays will be given for Christmas and New Year and that the work will go forward with the exception of these two days.

ALLIES WILL SEND MISSION INTO POLAND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—America and the allied countries have agreed to send a special civilian mission to Poland to investigate reports of atrocities committed in that country. It was announced at the state department that this step has been decided upon at the instigation of the French government and had been approved by Polish representatives in the various countries.

TRANSPORTATION AND PAY GIVEN SOLDIERS

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—A telegram to Maj. Laidlaw Smith, chairman of the state council of national defense from Washington, contains interesting information regarding the demobilization of returning soldiers. The message follows: "Returning soldiers will be given one month's pay, plus transportation allowance of 34 cents per mile from point of demobilization to home town. Their railroad tickets will cost 2 cents a mile by direct route. Demobilization will be from nearest army camp to home station of majority of men in each unit."

MISSISSIPPI BOY TELLS OF BATTLES IN FRANCE

NEW ALBANY, Miss., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—Friends of Reg. Parish of Ingomar, Miss., are congratulating him upon his safe return home from the front and eagerly listening to his accounts of the war in France. Private Parish was wounded in the fighting about Chateau Thierry and spent several months in the hospitals in France and at Atlanta, Ga. He was wounded by shell fire and is crippled in the hip. He declares that he knows he has at least one Hun to his credit, for when he went over the top the third time at Chateau Thierry he saw his man, who was making directly at him, and took careful aim. The German went down. Parish says he was not afraid during the fighting and that the boys considered that if they got through all right they were lucky. They were bound to do their part of the fighting regardless of the consequences and in that spirit they seemed to lose sight of self, Parish said.

FORKED DEER CLUB BALL TO BE GIVEN ON DEC. 24

DYERSBURG, Tenn., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—The Forked Deer club will give its annual Christmas ball Tuesday evening, Dec. 24. This will be the last of the social event since the beginning of the war, the club having given up its headquarters to the local chapter of the Red Cross. The latter has recently moved to an adjoining building, the work having become so much lighter that the club rooms were not needed. The club has taken a new lease of life. A smoker was had Thursday evening, at which important business was transacted. About 100 members were present, and 11 new members were added. M. H. Scott is president, J. F. Biggs secretary-treasurer.

DYER COUNTY MEDICS ELECT 1919 OFFICERS

DYERSBURG, Tenn., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—The Dyer County Medical association, at a meeting held here, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Dr. E. H. Baird; vice-president, Dr. McLaughlin; Tiggitt secretary-treasurer, Dr. M. E. Rust. Dr. Rice was elected delegate to attend the State Medical association with Dr. Baird alternate. The association holds meetings monthly, at which time prominent physicians are invited to make addresses, and is in a flourishing condition.

MASONS' ELECT.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—At the annual election of officers of Andrew Jackson lodge No. 2, F. and A. M. of Natchez, the following were named to serve for the coming year: Worshipful master, S. S. Black; senior warden, D. F. McCarty; junior warden, H. F. Foster; secretary, W. G. Benbrook; treasurer, W. R. Abbott; senior deacon, A. H. Westmoreland; junior deacon, A. H. Bernstein; custodian, Lamar Lamberti.

INFLUENZA RETURNS.

TREKENT, Miss., Dec. 16. (Sp.)—For two or three weeks influenza has been raging again in this section. There has been from one to several cases in a large number of homes of the town and it has been worse in the country districts this time than on the first round. Doctors are working day and night. There is a good deal of pneumonia and a number of deaths have resulted.



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